

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KENYA-USSR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PLAN SIGNED

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIGNED NEW TWO-YEAR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PLAN MARCH 26. PLAN PROVIDES FOR INCREASE IN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KENYANS IN USSR TO 44 NEW STUDENTS ANNUALLY, UP FROM PREVIOUS TARGET OF 30 NEW UNDERGRADUATES ANNUALLY (A TARGET THAT WAS NOT GENERALLY MET). ADDITIONALLY, FONMIN WAIYAKI TOLD PRESS THAT USSR WOULD PAY STUDENTS' ROUND TRIP AIR FARE, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT SPELLED OUT IN TEXT OF AGREEMENT. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS ALREADY ADVERTISING USSR SCHOLARSHIPS, BEGINNING AUTUMN 1976, MAINLY IN TECHNICAL FIELDS.

2. OTHER KENYAN EXCHANGEES SCHEDULED TO VISIT USSR IN NEXT TWO YEARS INCLUDE FOLK-DANCE TROUPE, CULTURAL WORKERS, JOURNALISTS, WRITERS, RADIO-TV REPS, AND

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ATHLETIC TEAMS. SOVIETS VISITING KENYA WILL INCLUDE

GEORGIAN MUSICAL TROUPE, ORIENTAL ART EXHIBIT, WRITERS, CULTURAL WORKERS, ASTRONOMERS, SOLOISTS AND POPULAR MUSIC PERFORMERS, AND UNIVERSITY LECTURER FOR THREE WEEK STAY.

3. IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGES, CULTURAL PLAN PROVIDES FOR CONTINUED STATIONING OF SOVIET DOCTORS AT KISUMU, WESTER KENYA -- TWO AT SOVIET EXPENSE AND SEVEN UNDER CONTRACT TO GOK. SOVIET HEALTH MINISTRY IS TO SEND DELEGATION TO DISCUSS FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH FIELD. IN EDUCATION, SOVIETS WILL PROVIDE TWO LECTURERS IN LINGUISTICS TO UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND WILL EXPLORE PUBLICATION OF RUSSIAN-SWAHILI DICTIONARY OR PHRASE BOOK. TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION IN EDUCATION FIELD -- THE LACK OF ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET DEGREES FOR PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS IN KENYA.

4. COMMENT: CULTURAL PLAN CONTAINS ESCAPE CLAUSE PLEDGING IMPLEMENTATION BY EACH GOVERNMENT "WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS CAPABILITIES." JUDGING BY PAST PERFORMANCE, SOME PROJECTED EXCHANGES WILL PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN SOME STEPS TO ATTRACT LARGER NUMBER OF KENYAN STUDENTS BY PAYING AIR FARE AND SEEKING TO RESOLVE EQUIVALENCE PROBLEM OF SOVIET DEGREES.

DECON 1/1/77.

MARSHALL

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